

UNIT 4 | SESSION 4

GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES

ISAIAH 9

CHRIST CONNECTION:

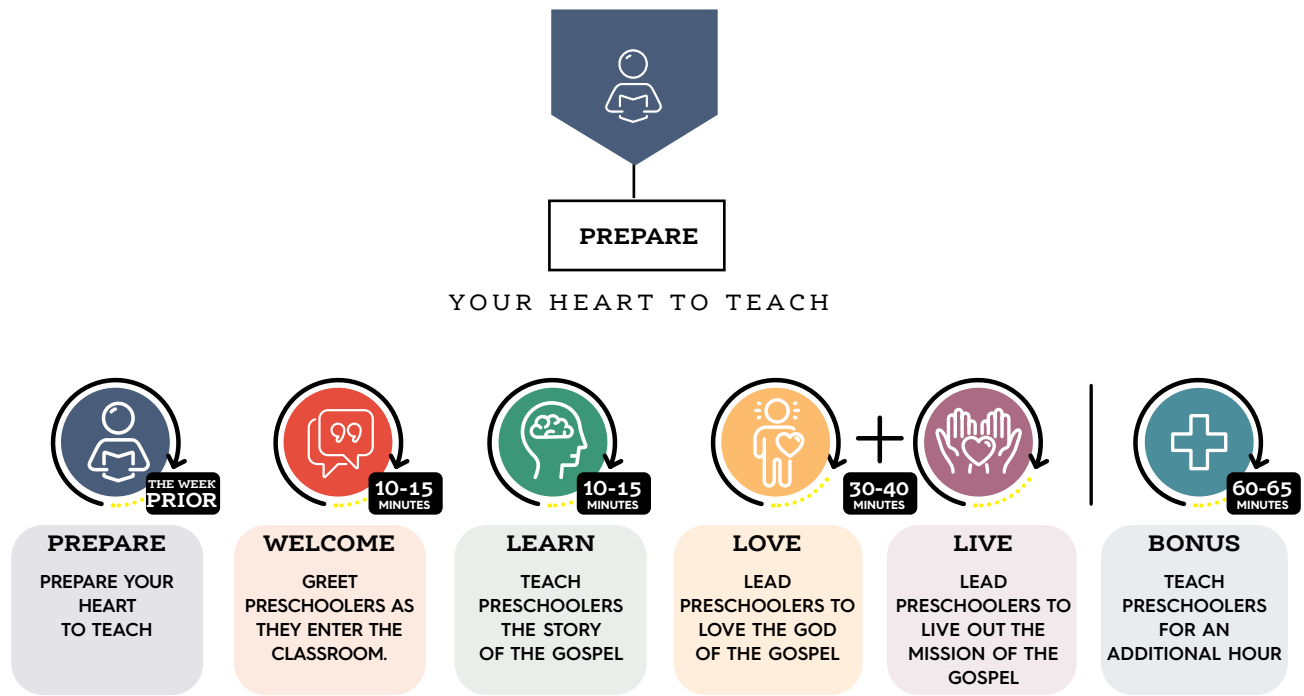
God keeps His promises. God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world as a baby. Jesus saves sinners.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Does God keep His promises? Yes, God always keeps His promises.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE:

God keeps His promises. Numbers 23:19



LEADER Bible Study

God's faithfulness is present throughout the Bible, but the theme is prominent in the Book of Exodus. God is consistent and unchanging. Even when the Israelites are faithless, God is faithful. The Israelites regularly celebrated God's miraculous acts like the Passover and the parting of the Red Sea to remember that God keeps His promises.

As you read and teach from the Old Testament, keep in mind this point on the horizon: God's keeping His ultimate promise to send a Rescuer to deliver His people from sin. God spoke to His people through the prophets to remind them of His good plan.

When would the promised One come? How would He come? Would God's people recognize Him? The prophet Isaiah—who lived hundreds of years before Jesus was born—brought a message of hope to God's people.

Isaiah spoke specifically of the Messiah's birth: "The virgin will conceive, have a son, and name him Immanuel" (Isa. 7:14). He described the birth of a "Prince of Peace"—a Son of David who will reign forever. (Isa. 9:6-7) Isaiah said that He would be a King! (Isa. 11:1-5)

Jesus fulfilled God's promises spoken by the prophet Isaiah. He is the child who came into the world. He is the Wonderful Counselor

who leads us with wisdom. He is the Mighty God who fights for and protects us. He is the Eternal Father who loves us. He is the Prince of Peace who brings us into a right relationship with God.

Isaiah's prophecies from God did not speak just to the people of his time; they also speak to us. Hundreds of years before it happened, Isaiah told of how Jesus would be born and how He would suffer and die to take away the sins of His people.

We respond to God's faithfulness with trust, remembering His past miraculous acts and looking forward to the day when King Jesus will come back and rule forever. Jesus is the promised Messiah. He makes all of God's promises come true.

PROPHECIES FULFILLED

Virgin birth (Isa. 7:14): Jesus was born to the virgin Mary. (Luke 1:35)

Prince of peace (Isa. 9:6-7): Jesus gives true peace. (John 14:27)

Everlasting King (Isa. 11:1-5): Jesus reigns forever. (Luke 1:31-33)



YOUR HEART TO TEACH

GATHER Supplies

Keep a supply of the following items available during all teaching sessions: Allergy Alert, Bibles, washable markers, crayons, scissors (adult use), blunt-tipped scissors, construction paper, copy paper, glue sticks, glue, tape, baby dolls, blocks, play dough, and a beanbag.



WELCOME

Discover God's promises

- ☐ box used in "Discover sand" activity from earlier sessions, or a medium-sized box (keep box to use in session 4)
- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster
- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster
- ☐ figurine of Jesus as a baby



LEARN

Look in the box

- ☐ box used in "Discover God's promises"

Names of Jesus

- ☐ figurine of Jesus as a baby used in "Look in the box"

Fill in the missing word

- ☐ Key Passage Phrase Marker



LOVE

Create with play dough

- ☐ craft sticks (optional)

Make a scroll

- ☐ copy paper cut in half lengthwise
- ☐ craft sticks
- ☐ ribbon

Play with a nativity scene

- ☐ "Nativity Figures" printable
- ☐ heavyweight paper
- ☐ 3 wooden blocks
- ☐ non breakable, child-safe nativity scene figures (optional)



LIVE

Trace names

- ☐ white construction paper
- ☐ dot markers

Draw your family

- ☐ "Missionary Families" printable

Snack and transition

- ☐ snacks
- ☐ Activity Page, 1 per child



BONUS

Tell a friend

- ☐ Key Passage Phrase Marker

Decorate crowns

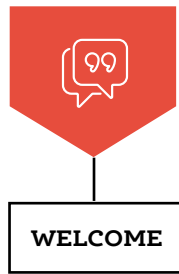
- ☐ stickers (optional)

Explore Bibles

- ☐ different size Bibles
- ☐ strips of construction paper

Work puzzles

- ☐ Christmas cards (not fantasy themed) with the nativity scene pictures



Provide as many learning activities as possible from the Love and Live sections to give preschoolers choices to learn. Incorporate the Bible story, the Christ connection, and key passage phrase in your conversation as the preschoolers engage in learning activities throughout the session.

WELCOME

Use the following activity to greet children as they enter the classroom. Talk about the big picture question and answer. After each child completes the welcome activity, encourage him to participate in the activities provided from the Love and Live sections of the leader guide.

DISCOVER GOD'S PROMISES

Use the box from the “Discover sand” activity in earlier sessions. If the box is unavailable, attach the big picture question poster to the outside of a box.

Place the Bible story picture poster from this session, a baby Jesus figurine, and a Bible opened to Isaiah 9 in the box. Greet each preschooler as she enters the room. Show her the box and read the big picture question on the poster, pointing to each word as you say it. Encourage her to look in the box to discover an item that represents God's promises.

SAY “ I am so glad that you are here today. The Bible tells us that ‘God keeps His promises.’ You found a figure of baby Jesus. We will hear a story about how God promised to send His son, Jesus. God told His people about Jesus many years before He was born. God promised to send Jesus. God keeps His promises. ”

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story

1 LOOK IN THE BOX

Encourage preschoolers to help bring the box from “Discover God’s promises” to group time. Work together to slide the box across the floor to the group time area. Sing the song “God Keeps His Promises” as you work together. The words to “God Keeps His Promises” are found in the “Sing a song” activity. Open the box and show and identify each of the items in the box. Show the preschoolers the baby Jesus figurine. Show the Bible story picture poster as you tell the story.

SAY “The last few weeks, we have learned about promises God made to Moses and the Israelites in the Book of Exodus. Today, we are going to learn about another promise God made in the Book of Isaiah. Isaiah was a prophet who lived many years after Moses and many years before Jesus. God used Isaiah to tell His people more about a very special promise He had made to them long ago. God keeps His promises. Let’s listen to a Bible story about a promise God made to send His Son, Jesus into the world.”

2 TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Open your Bible to Isaiah 9 and tell the following Bible story.

GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES

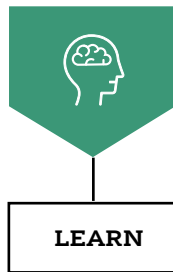
SAY “After Adam and Eve sinned, God made a promise. He said a Rescuer would come from Eve’s family. God’s people waited for God to keep His promise. God sometimes spoke to His people through prophets, people who got a message from God and then told it to the people.

The prophet Isaiah told people about God’s promise. Isaiah wrote, “This is how God will keep His promise: A child will be born for us, a son will be given to us, and the government will be on His shoulders.” That meant that Jesus was coming, and He would be a King.

Isaiah also said, “He will be named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.” Even more names for Jesus! Jesus’ names tell us who Jesus is and what great things He would do. Jesus was going to come to earth to help people and keep them safe.

Isaiah said, “He will be a good, fair, and loving King who reigns forever.”

Christ Connection: God keeps His promises. God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world as a baby. Jesus saves sinners.



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

3 NAMES OF JESUS

Take the figurine of baby Jesus out of the box used in “Look in the box” and pass it around the circle to each preschooler. Encourage preschoolers to repeat one of Jesus’ names (Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace, Jesus) when they are holding the figurine.

SAY “The names of Jesus that Isaiah told about help us know who Jesus is and what great things He would do. God keeps His promises. God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world as a baby. Jesus saves sinners.”

4 SING A SONG

Sing the song to the familiar tune of “Frere Jacques.”

“God keeps His promises. God keeps His promises.
Yes, He does. Yes, He does.
God keeps His promises. God keeps His promises.
Yes, He does. Yes, He does.”

5 FILL IN THE MISSING WORD

Place the key passage phrase marker at Numbers 23:19. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage phrase. Encourage preschoolers to say the phrase with you multiple times. Each time you say the phrase, leave off a word, leading children to say the missing word.

“God keeps His _____. Numbers 23:19”

“God keeps _____ promises. Numbers 23:19”

“God _____ His promises. Numbers 23:19”

“_____ keeps His promises. Numbers 23:19”

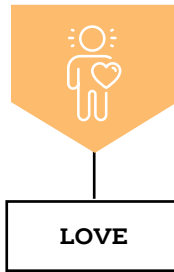
“God keeps His promises. _____”

SAY “God promised to send His Son, Jesus. God kept His promise.”

6 PRAY

Pray. Thank God for keeping His promises, for sending Jesus into the world as a baby, and taking care of us today.





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God because of what we learned

1 **CREATE WITH PLAY DOUGH**



Place play dough on a table and invite preschoolers to join you at the table. Demonstrate how to roll play dough into a rope. Form the letter “J” as you talk about the Bible story. Flatten the play dough and show preschoolers how to “write” on the play dough with craft sticks. Consider printing J on a piece of paper for preschoolers’ reference.

SAY “You made a “J” for Jesus. Jesus had several important names. He is Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, and Prince of Peace. Isaiah had an important message for God’s people. It is written in the Bible. Isaiah told the people that Jesus was coming to earth as a baby and that Jesus would be King.”

2 **MAKE A SCROLL**

Cut pieces of construction paper in half lengthwise. Cut a piece for each preschooler to make a scroll. Print the key passage phrase on the preschoolers’ papers. As preschoolers show interest in making scrolls, read the key passage phrase with them, pointing to each word. Assist children in gluing a craft stick to each end of their scrolls. Encourage them to decorate their scrolls with crayons or markers. After they decorate their scrolls, demonstrate how to roll the scrolls, with the ends rolling to the center. Complete the scrolls by tying them with pieces of ribbon. Explain to preschoolers that in Bible times, God’s words were written in a scroll. Remind them that today we have Bibles with God’s words in them.

SAY “In Bible times, a scroll like this had God’s words written on them. Now we have Bibles with God’s words in them. Isaiah had a message from God. He told the people about God’s promise to send Jesus. Jesus would be King. Jesus was coming to earth to help people and keep them safe. Isaiah’s message was written in the Bible, like the scroll you made. We can read it today. God always keeps His promises.”

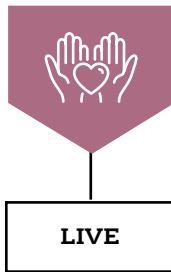
3 **PLAY WITH A NATIVITY SCENE**

Before the session, print the “Nativity Figures” printable on heavyweight paper. Cut out each figure and attach them to wooden blocks. If you have a nonbreakable nativity set that is safe and appropriate for preschoolers, this may be used as well. As children play with the Mary, Joseph, and Jesus figures, talk about the Bible story.

SAY “God made a promise after Adam and Eve sinned. He said a Rescuer would come. God’s people waited a long time for God to keep His promise, but God always keeps His promises. He sent His Son, Jesus into the world as a baby. Jesus saves sinners.”

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE for God out of love

1 TRACE NAMES

Print each child's name in large letters on a piece of white paper. Give preschoolers their papers with their names written. Show preschoolers how to trace or dot over each letter of their names with the dot markers. Print Jesus on several pieces of paper as well. As they dot over Jesus' name, talk about and describe each of the names in the Bible story that Isaiah said Jesus would be known by.

SAY “ You worked hard to trace your name. I see your name on the paper. Your name tells us who you are. Isaiah told the people that Jesus was coming. He said Jesus would be named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, and Prince of Peace. Jesus’ names help us know who He is and what great things He has done for us. ”

2 DRAW YOUR FAMILY



Print the “Missionary Families” printable. Place the printable, paper, and crayons on a table. Give each child a piece of paper. Encourage children to draw pictures of their families. As they work, show and talk about the different missionary families in the pictures. Ask the children if they have seen any of the families in the pictures before (the McDonalds.) Explain that each of the families in the pictures are missionaries and work together to tell people about Jesus. Show the child's drawing included in the printable. Tell the children the picture was drawn by an 8-year-old named Benny whose parents are missionaries. Give each child an opportunity to tell about his family drawing. Pray for the preschoolers, asking God to help them tell other people about Jesus. Be sensitive to family situations.

SAY “ Benny and his parents tell people about Jesus. They teach people that Jesus loves them, like he drew in the picture. You and your family do not have to move to a new place to tell people about Jesus! Can you think of someone you can tell about Jesus? All you have to do is say, ‘Jesus loves you!’ ”

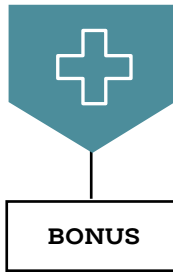
3 SNACK AND TRANSITION



Post an allergy alert. Serve the snack. As children eat, review and talk about the Bible story. When children finish snack, lead them to complete the activity page. As they work, continue talking about the Bible story and emphasize the Christ connection.

SAY “ God keeps His promises. God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world as a baby. Jesus saves sinners. ”

Remember to communicate helpful information to the bonus teaching hour leaders. If parents are picking up children at this time, tell them something their child did well during the session. Distribute the big picture cards for families. Encourage parents to engage with the family discussion starters and family activities during the week.



TEACHING HOUR

BONUS Teaching Hour Group Time

1 HOLD A BABY

As preschoolers move to group time, encourage them to pretend to hold a baby. Tell them Jesus is God's Son. Jesus came into the world as a baby.

2 TALK ABOUT THE BIBLE STORY

Open the Bible to Isaiah 9. Use the summarized points below to talk about the Bible story.

GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES

- God made a promise. He said a Rescuer would come from Eve's family.
- God told Isaiah, a prophet, what would happen. Isaiah wrote down God's message: "A child will be born for us, a son will be given to us."
- Isaiah also said, "He will be named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace." Even more names for Jesus!
- Jesus' names tell us who Jesus is and what great things He would do. Jesus was going to come to earth to help people and keep them safe.
- Isaiah said, "He will be a good, fair, and loving King who reigns forever."

3 SING A SONG

Sing the song below to the tune of "Frere Jacques."

"God keeps His promises. God keeps His promises.
Yes, He does. Yes, He does.
God keeps His promises. God keeps His promises.
Yes, He does. Yes, He does."

4 TELL A FRIEND

Place the key passage phrase marker in the Bible at Numbers 23:19. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage phrase. Encourage preschoolers to turn to a friend and say the key passage phrase in a baby voice.

5 PRAY

Pray, thanking God for sending His Son, Jesus, into the world as a baby, and for always keeping His promises.



BONUS

TEACHING HOUR

BONUS Teaching Hour Activities

6 DECORATE CROWNS



Cut a crown shape from a piece of construction paper for each preschooler. Distribute the shapes to children and invite them to decorate the crowns with crayons, markers, and stickers. Ask preschoolers where they would like you to print Jesus on their crowns.

SAY “ You decorated a crown. A king wears a crown on his head. Isaiah told God’s people that Jesus would be a good, fair, and loving King who reigns forever. Jesus’ name is written on your crown. Jesus is Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, and Prince of Peace. ”

7 EXPLORE BIBLES

Place several Bibles on a table for preschoolers to examine. Include Bibles of different sizes, as well as those with and without pictures. Place strips of construction paper in the Bibles at Isaiah 9 and Numbers 23:19. As preschoolers explore the Bibles, talk about the similarities and differences they notice such as the size, color of cover, and pictures or no pictures. Also, talk about what we read in the Bible, and that all the Bible is true. Encourage children to open the Bibles to the Bible story in Isaiah 9 and the key passage phrase in Numbers 23.

SAY “ The Bible is a very important and special book. It tells us about all the promises God has made. God keeps His promises. He promised to send His Son, Jesus. Isaiah told the people about God’s promise. This promise is written in the Bible. ”

8 WORK NATIVITY SCENE PUZZLES

Before the session, locate a few Christmas cards depicting the nativity scene. Cut the nativity scenes into simple puzzles. During the session, place them on a table. Encourage preschoolers to complete the puzzles, talking about Jesus, Mary, and Joseph as they work.

SAY “ God made a promise. He said a Rescuer would come. Jesus is that Rescuer. Jesus came to earth as a baby. He came to help people and keep them safe. Jesus saves sinners. God always keeps His promises. ”

Release preschoolers to parents according to your church’s security procedure. Tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session.